

# **ESSB 6392 Workgroup Update Seattle City Council Briefing**

Seattle City Council Chambers  
Dec. 13, 2010

# Agenda

- Overview of ESSB 6392 Workgroup process
- SR 520 corridor high capacity transit planning and financing findings and recommendations
- Washington Park Arboretum Mitigation Plan
- ESSB 6392 next steps

# Overview of ESSB 6392 Workgroup process

- **2010 legislative session:**  
Legislature passed ESSB 6392.
- **June to December:** Washington Park Arboretum mitigation planning work effort.
- **July:** ESSB 6392 Workgroup convened.
- **July to October:** Design refinements and transit connections work effort and public outreach. Report submitted Oct.1, 2010.
- **October to December:** Transit planning and financing work effort and public outreach. Report to be submitted by Dec. 31, 2010.



# SR 520 high capacity transit planning and financing recommendations report



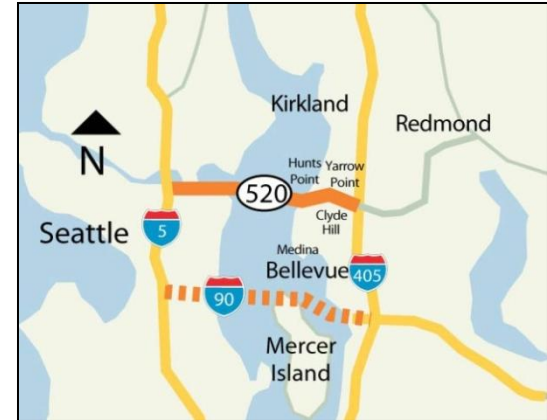
Team members:



Technical staff representatives from the City of Seattle and University of Washington also participated in this effort.

# The role of transit in the SR 520 corridor

- SR 520 is a major link between Seattle and the Eastside.
- Each weekday, 115,000 vehicles travel across SR 520 and 15,000 passengers ride transit.
- Increases in the Puget Sound region's population and employment centers is expected to result in 40,000 additional trips across SR 520 each day.



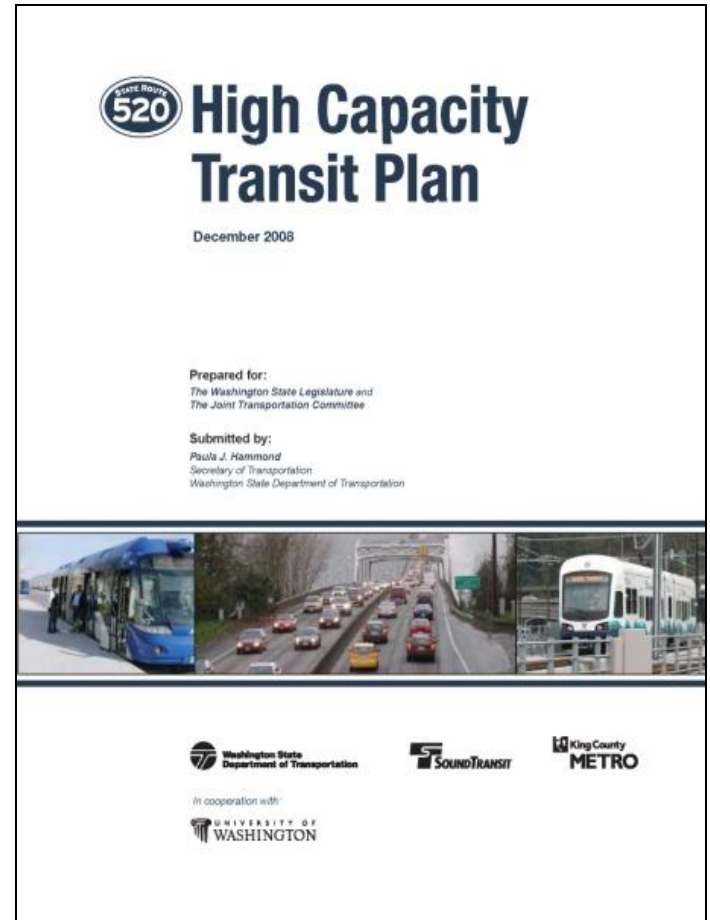


# 2008 High Capacity Transit Plan

- Builds on the strong transit markets already in place along the corridor.
- Builds on speed and reliability benefits from new, continuous transit/HOV lanes.
- Responds to projected increases in transit demand on the corridor.

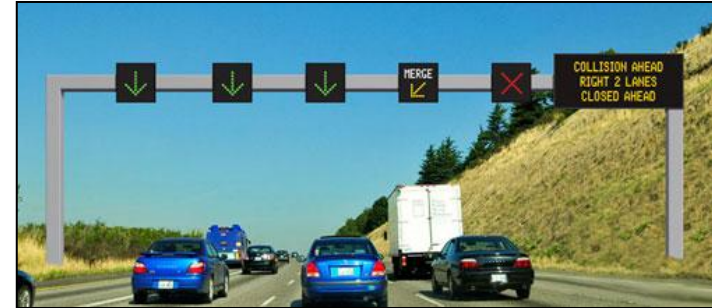
## Key findings

- Defines a phased program for SR 520 bus rapid transit through 2030 and prioritizes BRT lines for implementation.
- Suggests capital investments to improve operating efficiency, speed and reliability of service.
- Identifies funding gaps and next steps.
- Envisions an improved Montlake Multimodal Center.



# Factors affecting high capacity transit

- SR 520 corridor design and construction plans.
- Lake Washington Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) funded elements.
  - Over 20 percent increase in transit service in the SR 520 corridor by February 2011.
- Declining revenue for transit and transportation agencies.



Smarter Highways technology



Montlake Lid

# Examples of potential funding sources for transit

- Toll revenue
- Increased local property tax authority
- Increase in sales and use tax for transit
- Local option motor vehicle excise tax
- Local sales tax on motor fuels
- Transit commute mobility tax
- Federal grants:
  - FTA Section 5307
  - FTA Section 5309
  - Surface Transportation Program Regional Grant
  - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Regional Grant
  - Other federal funds





# 2010 Draft Transit Planning and Financing Findings

1. The conclusions and recommendations contained in the 2008 HCT Plan are valid.
2. The voter approved 2008 ST2 package includes funding for a long-range HCT Plan that will evaluate light rail as a potential transit mode on SR 520 in future.
3. Some of the early milestones identified in the 2008 HCT Plan have been completed including:
  - ✓ Defining the first phase of the Montlake Multimodal Center.
  - ✓ Increasing transit service in the SR 520 corridor.
  - ✓ Completing some of the capital improvements funded by the UPA.
4. Funding for King County Metro, Sound Transit, and WSDOT has been significantly impacted by slow economic conditions in the region.
5. Both King County Metro and Sound Transit have levied sales and use tax to the maximum allowed.

# 2010 Draft High Capacity Transit Planning and Financing Recommendations

- New, sustainable revenue sources are needed to support the HCT capital and service improvements in the SR 520 corridor.
- In the short term, funding is needed for an enhanced planning effort that will identify and refine the short- and mid-term transit needs identified in the 2008 HCT Plan.
- Conduct a study that examines the long-term demand for and feasibility of light rail and other high capacity technologies along the SR 520 corridor. Funding for this effort is included in the voter-approved 2008 Sound Transit 2 package.



# 2010 Draft High Capacity Transit Planning and Financing Recommendations

- Transit service across SR 520 should be monitored, evaluated and adjusted as transit ridership changes.
- BRT service implementation may be phased or modified to meet demand as needed once East Link service across I-90 begins.



# Draft Washington Park Arboretum Mitigation Plan

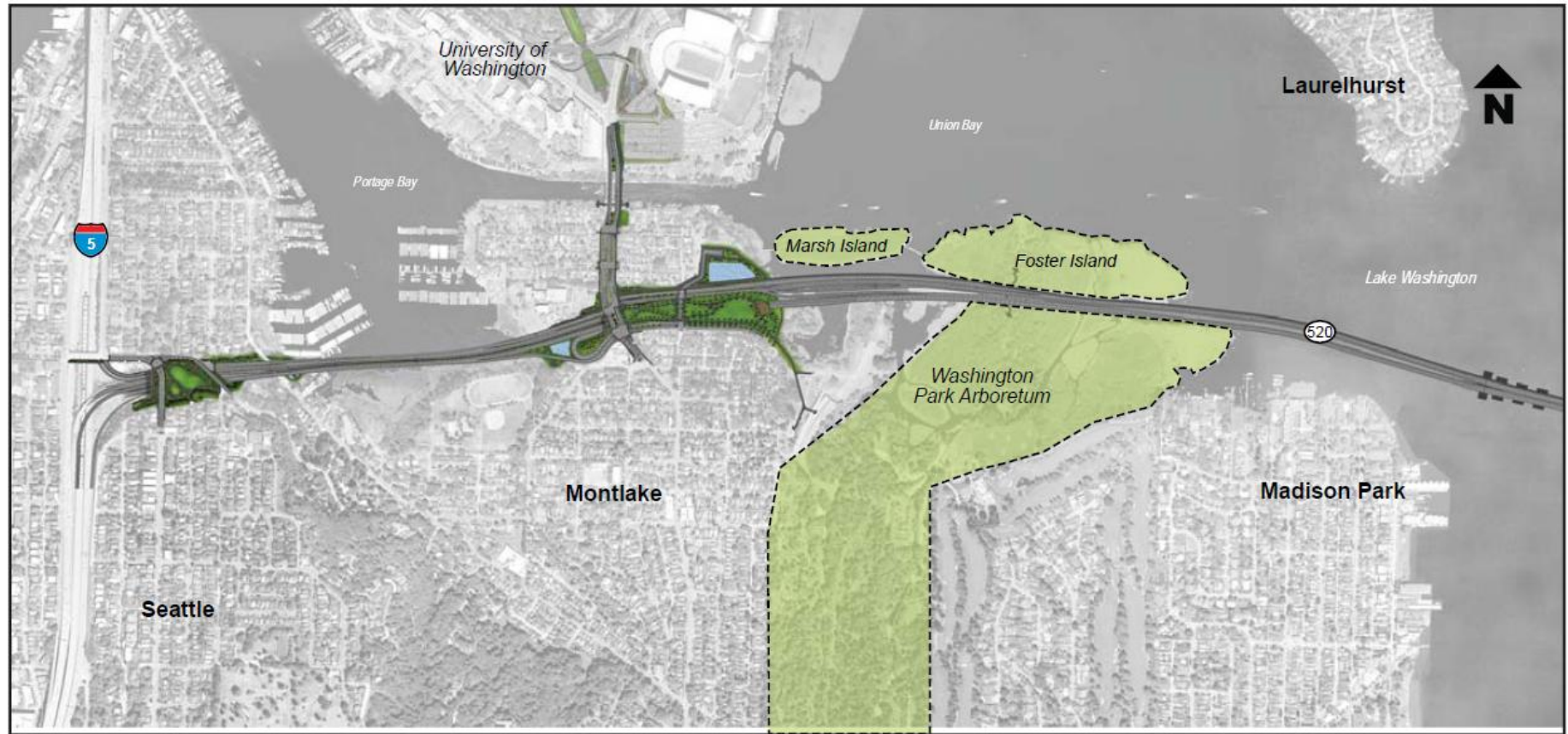


WSDOT worked with the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) on this effort, including representatives from:

- University of Washington
- City of Seattle
- Arboretum Foundation
- Governor's office

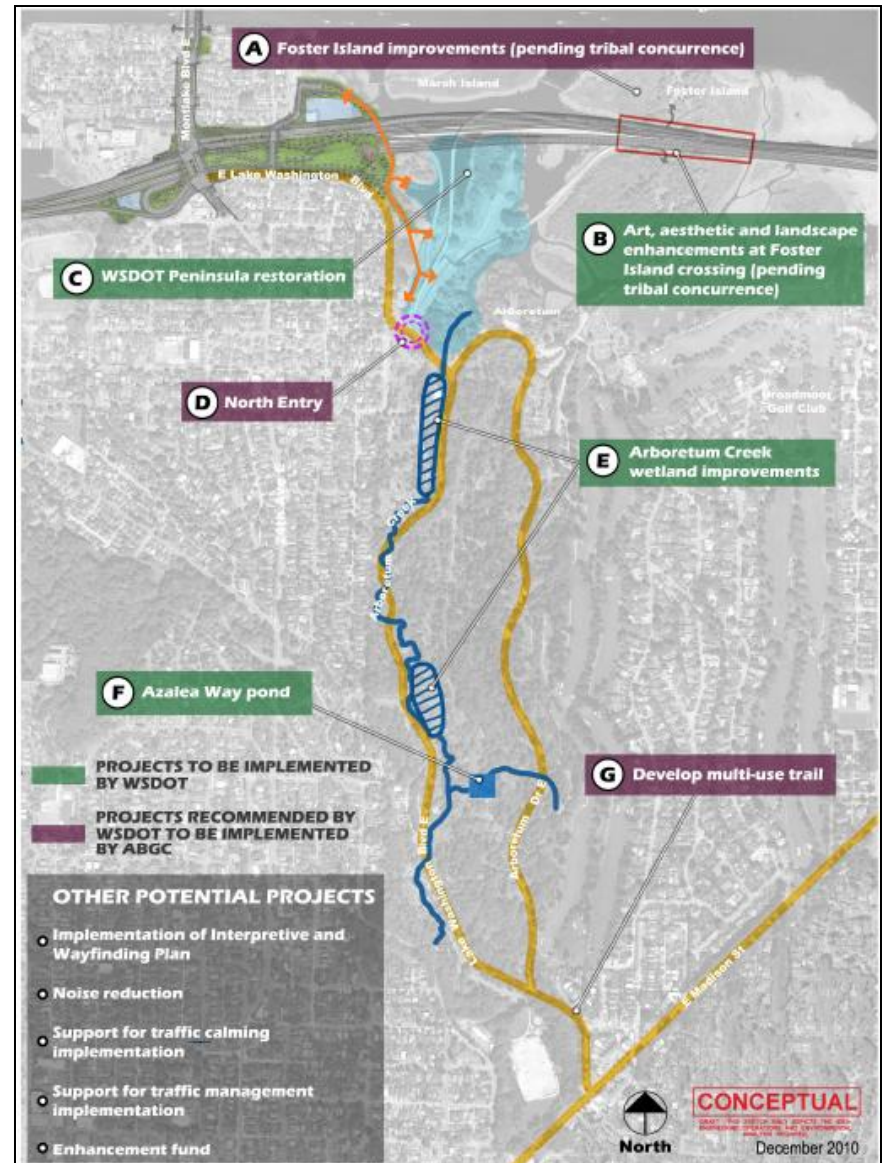


# SR 520 I-5 to Medina Project and the Washington Park Arboretum



# Potential mitigation projects

- Foster Island improvements (pending tribal concurrence).
- Aesthetic and landscape enhancements at Foster Island (pending tribal concurrence).
- WSDOT Peninsula restoration.
- North Entry.
- Arboretum Creek wetland improvements.
- Azalea Way pond.
- Develop multi-use trail.





# Other potential mitigation projects

- Implementation of Interpretive and Wayfinding Plan.
- Implementation of noise reduction measures.
- Support for traffic calming implementation.
- Support for traffic management implementation.
- Potential to contribute to enhancement fund.



# Pedestrian improvements and traffic calming update

## 2011 Implementation

### *Phase 1*

- Marked crosswalk
- Speed cushions
- Crosswalk maintenance

### *Phase 2*

- Raised crosswalk
- Landscaped curb bulb
- Radar speed signs

## Future Consideration

- Sign improvements
- Pedestrian-activated signal



# Traffic management plan update

## 2011-2012 Evaluation

- Signal timing
- Signing revisions
- Tolling feasibility

## Long-Term Evaluation

- Turning restrictions
- Time-based restrictions
- Traffic restrictions





# ESSB 6392 next steps

## Transit planning and financing recommendations report

- Dec. 1-15: Public comment period
- Dec. 31: Final report recommendations submitted to the Governor and Legislature

## Washington Park Arboretum Mitigation Plan

- Dec. 1-15: Public comment period
- Dec. 31: Final mitigation plan submitted to the Governor and Legislature

